

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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SUBJECT: SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIES TO RABIN'S CRITICISM

REF: TEL AVIV 5536

1. IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS ON AUGUST 12, SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON DECLARED, IN RESPONSE TO ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S CRITICISM (REFTEL), THAT "THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT HAS NOT TAKEN A STAND ON THE PART OF ANY OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE LEBANESE CIVIL WAR. ON THE CONTRARY WE HAVE IN VARIOUS WAYS URGED THE PARTIES INVOLVED TO CEASE FIGHTING AND TO START NEGOTIATIONS."

2. ANDERSSON ADDED THAT "WE HAVE ALSO SOUGHT TO SUPPORT THE RED CROSS IN ITS EFFORTS TO EVACUATE THE SICK, THE WOUNDED, WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM TEL AL-ZAATAR. WE HAVE AS WELL INVESTIGATED WHICH POSSIBILITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO TAKE UP THE QUESTION OF A HUMANITARIAN PLEA FROM THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL." HE UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPLAINED THAT THESE ACTIONS OF SWEDEN DO NOT IMPLY

ANY TAKING OF A POSITION IN THE CONFLICT, BUT ARE THE PRODUCT OF "PURELY HUMANITARIAN AIMS."

3. ALLUDING TO RABIN'S COMMENTS OF SWEDEN'S FOCUS OF ATTENTION ON TEL AL-ZAATAR, ANDERSSON POINTED OUT THAT "IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT WE SHOWED AN INTEREST FOR THE SWEDISH CITIZENS IN THE CAMP. IT IS EVERY GOVERNMENT'S DUTY TO TRY TO PROTECT THE LIFE AND SECURITY OF ITS CITIZENS."

4. IN THE SAME CONNECTION THE GOS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL GIVE 1 MILLION SWEDISH KRONOR (\$1 EQUALS APPROXIMATELY 4.4 SKR) TO THE RED CROSS TO SUPPORT ITS OPERATIONS IN LEBANON, AND THAT IT WILL MAKE AN EXTRA CONTRIBUTION OF 2 MILLION SKR. TO THE UN ORGANIZATION HELPING THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES.

SMITH

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